

again pressing my finger to the extent of its capacity, there was felt just at its point what was supposed to be the closed os uteri. Still waiting and hoping, a few minutes more convinced me that with the sudden effort of the womb, that wrung the membranes so as to rupture them, the os uteri was closed by a strong spasmodic effort, and the presenting part of the fetus driven back again into the body of the womb. Attributing this peculiar, and (to me) entirely novel phenomenon, to irregular action of the uterine fibres—to *clonic* spasm—I administered a teaspoonful of a camphorated solution of morphia, with a view of arresting the spasmus, and allowing the dilating and expulsive forces to be properly exercised. At this time the rigid and indurated os uteri was felt by the finger, closed and firm. In about half an hour, the rigidity gave way, the dilatation answered readily to every pain, and in less than half an hour more, a living, healthy child was born.

The peculiarities of this case are these: Ten hours were occupied with slow, yet constantly progressing dilatation. Immediately upon the presentation of the great relaxant, ether, the dilatation ceased, and the womb shut up its mouth. It remained closed nearly three hours, and then suddenly expanded, and allowed the child to be born. The danger in the case was, in the greater measure, on the side of the child; it was robbed of its liquor amnii, and was subjected, for several hours, to the irregular pressure of an irritable womb, causing not a little apprehension of its death. In taking a retrospect of the case, the suggestion is naturally presented to the mind, that there may have been a spontaneous evolution of the fetus. If the head had been fairly engaged with the membranes, and the contained liquid within the circumference of the os, it might not have returned so readily, as the presenting portion seems to have done in the instance before us, upon the evacuation of the waters. Perhaps the shoulder, or some other portion of the trunk—or, it may have been the breech—presented, and was, with the sudden closure of the outlet, and by the same effort, turned upon itself, and the head brought down in the second position of the vertex. My obstetrical reading has not furnished a record of a similar example that I can call to mind; and my obstetrical practice has not given me the opportunity of making such observations as have marked the history of the one just narrated. The reason for making it public is simply to add what may be useful or interesting to the records of science.

*Philadelphia, June, 1854.*

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*Hemorrhage from the Bowels in a new-born Infant—Recovery*—By W. B. YOUNG, M. D., of Middleton, Md.—I notice, in the January number of this Journal, the report of a fatal case of hemorrhage, from the bowels of a new-born infant; and as I have had a similar case, in which the result was favourable, and which I attribute to a different course of treatment, I am induced to offer an account of it.

On the 18th Nov., 1853, I was requested to attend Mrs. R., in her third confinement; her labour was easy and of less duration than her previous ones, and without any difficulty whatever. The child was born in the full term of utero-gestation, and was considerably smaller than its predecessors; it was a female, and although of a delicate appearance, was considered a healthy child. Its bowels were sufficiently active without medicine, and its dejections were of the usual appearance until the expiration of forty-eight hours from birth, when it had frequent and most profuse discharges of blood. The attendants supposed that there could not be less than a quart of blood discharged. I estimated less than that quantity, but could not determine precisely the

amount. The discharge of blood had been for twelve hours previous to my visit. The child's pulse was barely perceptible, and it presented an anemic appearance. I did not think it possible for it to live. I immediately ordered a weak brandy toddy and half a grain of prussiate of iron, every half hour until the evacuations presented a different appearance. In two hours after taking the first dose, the child had an evacuation without blood; the medicine was then given every hour for twelve hours; then once in six hours for two days, when it was not necessary to continue the iron, but the toddy was used for a week longer. The child is now a fine fat little girl. I considered the exudation of blood to be too high in the alimentary canal to be reached by enemata, and feared that they might, by constringing the lower bowels, distend the portion above with blood. Had the iron failed, I confess I should have been at a loss as to what treatment to pursue. But as it had never failed me in any hemorrhages, either active or passive, I felt certain if the bleeding could be arrested the iron would do it.

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*Tapeworm expelled by Infusion of Pumpkin Seeds.* By D. LEASURE, M.D., of Newcastle, Pa.—Mary —, aged 28, unmarried, has been delicate all her life, and for fifteen years subject to severe cramping pains of the abdomen, accompanied sometimes by obstinate vomiting. About ten years since, she noticed that she passed portions of tapeworm, of lengths varying from a single joint up to many feet, and, if the statements of the patient and her mother are to be relied on, sometimes half filling an ordinary chamber-mug. Her mother had also, at an early period of her life, been a victim to a tapeworm, which had been expelled by a secret *vegetable remedy*, probably *male fern* given her by a worm doctor.

My attention was called to Mary's case some time in last February, while in attendance on her sister for another disease; but, from causes not necessary to mention, I did not prescribe till last week. I had intended to use the male fern or kousso, or both; but not having access to either of them in a fresh state, I determined to wait till they could be procured from Philadelphia. While thus waiting, I noticed in one of the journals a report of a case of *tænia* expelled by the use of emulsion of pumpkin-seeds. Curiosity, more than the expectation of success, prompted me to give it a trial. I directed a *pint* of the bruised seeds to be infused in three pints of soft boiling water, and left over night, the whole to be taken during the next day, the patient fasting in the mean time.

On the morning of the 9th of May, the patient commenced its use, and in the afternoon experienced the most violent cramps and pains in the bowels for several hours; and on the morning of the 10th she passed eleven feet of the parasite, including the head, as proved by observation under the microscope. The animal was entirely dead when voided from the bowel, and is a most beautiful specimen of a perfect *tænia*.

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*A Remarkable Case of General Emphysema.* By E. K. BEAVER, M. D., of Worcester, Montgomery Co., Pa.—I was summoned to visit Mr. Snyder, æt. 61, on the second day of November, 1853. The messenger informed me that he had an apoplectic fit three days ago, and was now greatly swollen. When I reached the house, on placing my hand upon his wrist, I found a peculiar cracking sensation, which, by the least pressure, gave way. This utterly confounded me. By placing the tips of my fingers on one of his cheeks, which were enormously distended, the same sensation was perceptible, and by the least pressure all disappeared for a moment. The eyelids were greatly